

Board Meeting Minutes

Approved_{01/23/07}

Tuesday, November 28th, 2006
Arc of Amador
75 Academy Drive
Sutter Creek, CA

Board Members Present:

Jill Ames
Robert Balderama
Gary Del Nero
Mary Dye
Anna Newman
Brad Putz
Mollie Rogers
Deirdre Wright

Staff Present:

Kathy Barnes- Executive Director
Dena Hernandez-Community Program Specialist II

Facilitators:

David Simerley
Karen Pekarick
Paula Short-Lund

Board Members Absent:

Fred Edmondson
Hanna Kassis
Janine Lodato
John Lundberg
Traci Trujillo

Guests:

Mike Sweeney, Executive Director of The Arc
Tracy from The Arc Recreation Activities
Richard Skidmore, Executive Director of
Community Compass

Call to Order and Introductions:

The meeting was called to order by Gary Del Nero, Chairperson, at 6:20 p.m. The Board members, staff and audience introduced themselves. The Board welcomed new Board member Robert Balderama (San Joaquin).

Approval of Agenda and Minutes:

Previous minutes were tabled, due to lack of a quorum. A quorum was achieved later in the meeting and the motion to approve the minutes was completed. M/S/C Putz/Balderama

Public Comment:

There was no public comment at this meeting.

Presentations:

- Mike Sweeney, Executive Director of the Arc gave an overview of their services: They serve approximately 150 folks overall- and cover two counties. They have approximately 30 people in supported employment. They support supported employment and are dedicated to maintaining that service. They strive to reflect the interest of the people they serve. They try to match people's interest with a job. Mike thanked the area board for publicizing the efforts of one individual from the Arc in the newsletter. They also provide Supported Living service through Arc Whole Life Services. An area of need in the mountain counties is transportation.

There is no transportation on evenings or weekends. Mike introduced, Tracy from their Recreation Activities for all citizens of Amador. They have a 10 member board that meets the second Tuesday of every month. They try to meet to service those in Amador.

- Richard Skidmore, Executive Director of the Community Compass gave an overview of his program's services. He stated that there is a difference between his program and The Arc. Community Compass is a behavior management program. To receive services from his day program, one must be referred and an assessment completed. One can't just ask to get in. The ratios are different because people attending his program require support with coping and dealing with difficult situations. He started in 2001. He left a place that didn't help him emotionally. It was a large day program and he made the decision to change. He explained his background and his philosophical beliefs. He developed the social effectiveness training. Participants choose 3 activities a month- they practice the social skills that they need- it helps them with work/employment. He has 23 people attending Community Compass. He wants to know everyone who walks in the door and know what is on that person's ISP. He has a small program in Sonora- 11 people. Consumer's hire staff and work with mental health services. They can deal with the legal system- and go to their court dates. They started working with the school district. Richard mentioned a web site that has been helpful to him. It is www.YAI.com. His next endeavor will be working with people with Autism/Asperger's. He explained that this disability is on the rise and there will be a need to provide services to those living with it.

Overview of Services and Needs in Amador:

Transportation is a HUGE issue up here!!

VMRC needs assessment- there are two care home (level 2) Richard Skidmore sees a need for alternative services so they don't have to move to San Joaquin county. There is a need for alternative services. Lack of Residential services- Amador, Calaveras and Tuolumne are all viewed as Mountain Counties although their needs are different. People with behavior component continue to live up here. Weekend and evening transportation- on the committee trying to beef it up for 2007. It would be nice to have grants for transportation. It would be great to get updates from Anna Newman as she is involved in the committee.

Reports:

Brad Putz-

November 13th & 14th, He attended the SCDD meeting. They went over AB1270. Info in packet.

Looking at the State Plan:

It is going to be a lot of work. Kathy asked what would people like to see as the priorities from the plan? Any ideas are greatly appreciated. A comment was made that local counties don't hear from the disabled community or children services- two counties are developing their plans and the input could be beneficial- in SJ county they are trying for Universal design- several elements should be reviewed.

Mini grants:

The SCDD has approved \$5000 mini grants to each area board to give out in their counties. They can be given in one lump, or it can be split. The board decides on what type of grants and to whom the money should go to. It can go to individuals or organizations- it's a board decision. The board will need to decide what they can use for the mini grants. Possible sub committee- Robert Balderama, Deirdre Wright and Gary volunteered for this sub-committee. They will try to set up a meeting in January. Ideas: Computers- buy and donate, Supported Living vendors are looking at a pilot program regarding email accounts for people who use services.

BREAK:

Members walked around the hall of the Arc. Art work was displayed. They are having an Art show this coming weekend.

VMRC Consumer Services:

The time to get services is too long. It can be up to 45 days in mountain counties, Stanislaus is having trouble, and in SJ there is a problem. Children services are in trouble. Approximatley, 90 children that are past the 45 days. The referral rate is close to 100 kids a month- a significant growth. The First FIVE has been kicking in more services across the board. A question is "What is the consequences of non compliance??" There are sanctions- or plan of corrections. VMRC gets reviewed once every three years. Need a board member on this committee they meet every other month.

VMRC resource development Committee:

There is not a board member on this committee. A comment was made that VMRC will give extra respite to parents on the VMRC board but not to parents on other boards. If any board member is interested- let Gary know.

Mentors for board members:

VMRC is looking at SCDD to partner on this topic. VMRC is working on it- The idea is to change from using facilitators to using coaches and/or mentor's. Kathy will keep the board informed of the progress.

CAC's:

DeirdreWright- She did not have an update for her county CAC due to a sad event- the person passed away before he could take over. The president resigned and couldn't take over so they are behind. She hasn't made it to a meeting yet.

TracyTrujillo was absent from this meeting. No update available.

Calaveras County Board Meeting:

John Lundberg was absent. They are working on issues with transportation in that county.

Board member Reports:

Dierdre Wright- Special Olympics the CAC president (past) is trying to get it off the ground. It is not being run appropriately. They had a fundraiser for the first time. They have added sports. There was a spontaneous discussion about transportation at the Tuolumne County Board of Supervisor's meeting- People spoke and shared their transportation issues. It was not just persons with disabilities, its senior people who don't own cars; students... the whole community are not being served properly. We need to redefine transportation. They are supposed to all meet again in January.

Dierdre also spoke about a personal thing- applying for Social Security for her daughter. She believes that there too much paper work. VMRC caused her stress over the situation. She would like the Area Board to look into it.

Jill Ames- She passed food out at the food bank with Thumbs Up! She went to the Health Fair and handed stuff out about rights. She went to the CA Memorial Project in September.

Brad Putz- SAC VI went to Area Meeting. He and Donald Roberts did a presentation on Anger Management He'll be at next months meeting for the SCDD.

Robert Balderama- This was his first meeting tonight. He was happy to be on the board.

Anna Newman- She had a picture in the art show. She said that two of our staff (The Arc) were on a local station on Monday morning and talked about the art show. Some of the artists got in Friday's local paper for the art show.

Molly Rogers- She shared that her mom was thrilled that she got an award from Special Olympics Bowling- 1st place.

Gary Del Nero- His team took a second place in state championship for Soccer!

Staff Report:

BSG Report- Kathy explained that the reports were included in the board packet. She also shared that the Microenterprises group is meeting. She will keep the board updated on the progress.

LQA Report- The Trends, Issues and Needs Report for 2005/06 was completed and included in the board packet.

CHOICES 20th Conference will be Friday, April 20th, 2007. The t-shirt contest has begun and the winner will be chosen at the CHOICES January Meeting.

The Elections will be held at the next meeting in January.

Adjourn: .

Meeting Adjourned at 8:40pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Dena M. Hernandez